

Program C: Voter Registration

Program Authorization: La. Constitution, Article IV, Sec. 12; R.S. 36-661-663; R.S. 18:3 et seq.; P.L. 103-31; Voting Rights Act of 1965. as amended; LAC 31: II. Chapters 3, 5, and 6.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The mission of the Voter Registration Program is to advance the department's leadership position as the premier voter registration system in the nation; to afford the citizens of Louisiana more opportunities for voter registration; and to make young citizens more aware of the importance of registering as soon as they are eligible.

The goals of the Voter Registration Program are:

1. Administer the laws governing voter registration.
2. Promote voter registration through education and public awareness programs.
3. Develop programs for the statewide voter registration system to better assist the parish registrars of voters and serve the general public.
4. Ensure the accuracy and integrity of the information contained in the statewide voter registration system.

The Voter Registration Program is responsible for prescribing rules and instructions to be applied uniformly by the parish registrars of voters; compiling and storing statistical research, political analysis, and voter trends; and maintaining the state's voter registration system, including voter information and statistics. Parish registrars of voters register and canvass voters to ensure registration in the proper ward and precinct. The Voter Registration Program includes the following activities: Voter Registration Administration Section, Data Processing Section, and Registrars of Voters Section.

- The Registration Administration Section directs, assists, and prescribes rules, regulations, forms, and instructions to be applied uniformly by each registrar of voters in the state.
- The Data Processing Section compiles and stores statistical information that is available for use by all departments of government as well as candidates for public office and all other persons interested in statistical research, political analysis, and voter trends. The data provided includes but is not limited to voter turnout statistics for each election. The Voter Registration System (ERIN System) has centralized all voter information and statistics to ensure the integrity of the state's voter rolls, protect against dual registration of individuals, and cancel the registration of individuals who are interdicted or deceased.
- The Registrars of Voters Section registers all persons interested in becoming a registered voter and updates voter registration data. In accordance with statutory requirements, the Department of Elections and Registration is required to pay the state's share of the salaries for the registrars of voters and their employees as well as a prorated portion of the annual canvass cost. The canvass examines the validity of the addresses of record for the registered voters in Louisiana.

OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Unless otherwise indicated, all objectives are to be accomplished during or by the end of FY 2000-2001. Performance indicators are made up of two parts: name and value. The indicator name describes what is being measured. The indicator value is the numeric value or level achieved within a given measurement period. For budgeting purposes, performance indicator values are shown for the prior fiscal year, the current fiscal year, and alternative funding scenarios (continuation budget level and Executive Budget recommendation level) for the ensuing fiscal year (the fiscal year of the budget document).

The objectives and performance indicators that appear below are associated with program funding in the Base Executive Budget for FY 2000-01. Specific information on program funding is presented in the financial sections that follow performance tables.

1. (KEY) Through the Registrars of Voters Section, to register all persons interested in becoming a registered voter and update voter registration data.

Strategic Link: This operational objective relates to Objective 2 for the Voter Registration Program in the department's strategic plan (revised November 1999): *Through the Registrars of Voters Section, parish registrars of voters will register voters, update voter rolls, review all incoming voter registration application forms for completeness, and request additional information of all incomplete forms. The registrars of voters will canvass voters to ensure that an individual is registered in the parish, ward or precinct in which the voter resides, cancel voter registrations of all voters who are deceased, and suspend the registration of individuals who are interdicted or convicted of a felony.*

Explanatory Note: To accomplish this operational objective, the Registrars of Voters Section registers voters, updates voter rolls, reviews all incoming voter registration application forms for completeness, and requests additional information on all incomplete forms. The registrars of voters canvass voters to ensure that an individual is registered in the parish, ward, and precinct in which the voter resides, cancel voter registrations of all voters who are deceased, and suspend the registrations of individuals who are interdicted or convicted of a felony.

Explanatory Note: In accordance with statutory requirements, the Department of Elections and Registration is required to pay the state's share of the salaries for registrars of voters and their employees, as well as a prorated portion of the annual cost.

LEVEL	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR NAME	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR VALUES					
		YEAREND PERFORMANCE STANDARD FY 1998-1999	ACTUAL YEAREND PERFORMANCE FY 1998-1999	ACT 10 PERFORMANCE STANDARD FY 1999-2000	EXISTING PERFORMANCE STANDARD FY 1999-2000	AT CONTINUATION BUDGET LEVEL FY 2000-2001	AT RECOMMENDED BUDGET LEVEL FY 2000-2001
K	Total number of registered voters (highest number during fiscal year)	2,650,000	2,695,476	2,916,240 ¹	2,916,240 ¹	3,095,800 ²	3,095,800 ²

¹ The FY 1999-00 performance standard for this indicator is 2,916,240. However, based on current voter registration, voters removed from the inactive registration roles, and projected new voter registration, the highest number of registered voters for FY 1999-00 is more likely to be 2,896,401 (2,700,141 active voters and 195,760 inactive voters).

² FY 2000-01 performance value is based on projections of 2,915,800 active registered voters and 180,000 inactive registered voters.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION: VOTER REGISTRATION, FY 1994-95 THROUGH FY 1998-99

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1994-95	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1995-96	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1996-97	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1997-98	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1998-99
Total number of registered voters (highest number during fiscal year)	2,207,765	2,455,783	2,509,733	2,654,222	2,695,476
Number of active registered voters (highest number during fiscal year)	Not available ¹	Not available ¹	Not available ¹	2,466,389	2,528,744
Number of inactive registered voters (highest number during fiscal year)	Not available ¹	Not available ¹	Not available ¹	187,833	166,732
Percentage change in registered voters ²	-1.7%	11.2%	2.2%	5.8%	1.6%
Annual cost of Voter Registration Program per registered voter	Not available	\$2.49	\$2.51	\$2.47	\$2.46

¹ This performance indicator was first used in FY 1999-00. In FY 1997-98, the software for providing voter registration statistics was modified to capture both active and inactive voter registration data. Prior to that point, data for these indicators are not available.

² Percentage change in registered voters is computed as follows: the highest number of registered voters in the current period is divided by the highest number of registered voters in the prior period; from that resulting figure, one is subtracted.

2. (KEY) Through the Registration Administration Section, to encourage voter registration methods that make voter registration readily available and convenient.

Strategic Link: This operational objective correlates to Objective 3 for the Voter Registration Program in the department's strategic plan (revised November 1999): *Through the Voter Registration Administration Section, the department will coordinate various agency-based registration under the National Voter Registration Act and encourage voter registration methods that make voter registration readily available and convenient, as measured by a percentage of voter registrations received from nontraditional sources.*

Explanatory Note: To accomplish this objective, the Registration Administration Section coordinates various agency-based registrations under the National Voter Registration Act and is responsible for all initial and follow-up training. The section also submits all reports and surveys to the Federal Elections Commission.

LEVEL	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR NAME	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR VALUES					
		YEAREND PERFORMANCE STANDARD FY 1998-1999	ACTUAL YEAREND PERFORMANCE FY 1998-1999	ACT 10 PERFORMANCE STANDARD FY 1999-2000	EXISTING PERFORMANCE STANDARD FY 1999-2000	AT CONTINUATION BUDGET LEVEL FY 2000-2001	AT RECOMMENDED BUDGET LEVEL FY 2000-2001
K	Average response time to provide voter registration forms (in days)	Not applicable ¹	3	Not applicable ¹	3 ¹	3	3

¹ This is a new performance indicator. It did not appear under Act 10 of 1998 or Act 19 of 1999 and has no performance standards for FY 1998-99 and FY 1999-00. The value shown for existing performance standard is an estimate not a standard.

Explanatory Note: In FY 1994-95, the Department of Elections and Registration implemented the requirements of the National Voter Registration Act, which authorizes various nontraditional voter registration methods. The department has no control over the method used by a registrant to register to vote; however, the department can and does monitor the methods of new voter registration.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION: VOTER REGISTRATIONS, BY TYPE

FY 1995-96 THROUGH FY 1998-99

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1995-96	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1996-97	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1997-98	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1998-99
Total number of new voter registrations	324,150	211,499	147,039	157,315
Number of new voter registrations from traditional sources	83,793	42,530	19,780	22,648
No. of new voter registrations from state LRI Form	83,151	41,888	19,663	22,496
No. of new voter registrations from federal postcard	642	1,342	117	152
Number of new voter registrations from nontraditional sources	240,357	168,969	127,259	134,667
No. of new voter registrations from public assistance	28,546	12,102	10,111	7,978
No. of new voter registrations from motor vehicle office	104,333	84,505	87,511	86,860
No. of new voter registrations from mail form	88,522	60,351	21,095	30,146
No. of new voter registrations from optional registration site	16,209	9,955	6,890	8,304
No. of new voter registrations from social services	2,329	1,312	1,501	1,227
No. of new voter registrations from military form	418	744	151	152
Percentage of new voter registration applications received from traditional sources	25.9%	20.1%	13.5%	14.4%
Percentage of new voter registration from state LRI Form	25.7%	19.5%	13.4%	14.3%
Percentage of new voter registration from federal post card	0.2%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%
Percentage of new voter registration applications received from nontraditional sources	74.1%	79.9%	86.5%	85.6%
Percentage of new voter registration from public assistance	8.8%	5.7%	6.9%	5.0%
Percentage of new voter registration from motor vehicle	32.2%	40.0%	59.5%	55.2%
Percentage of new voter registration from mail form	27.3%	28.5%	14.3%	19.2%
Percentage of new voter registration from optional registration site	5.0%	4.7%	4.7%	5.3%
Percentage of new voter registration from social services	0.7%	0.6%	1.0%	0.8%
Percentage of new voter registration from military form	0.1%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%

3. (SUPPORTING) Through the Data Processing Section, to ensure the integrity of the state's voter rolls by performing a complete list maintenance procedure and make elections statistical information available to users.

Strategic Link: This operational objective correlates to Objective 4 for the Voter Registration Program in the department's strategic plan (revised November 1999): *Through the Data Processing Section, the department shall perform a complete list maintenance procedure.*

Explanatory Note: The list maintenance procedure includes maintaining the voter registration file and compiling annual canvass, felony, and National Voter Registration Act information for registrars of voters to utilize in removing or suspending voters from the voter registration roles. In January 1999, the department began removing 100% of inactive voters who have not voted in two federal elections after congressional general elections. This task will be performed every two years following a congressional general election.

Explanatory Note: The Data Processing Section also submits four voter registration reports per year to the legislature; prints 100% of precinct registers prior to absentee voting; submits 100% of active voter registration files annually to the National Change of Address (which is utilized during the annual canvass process to identify registered voters who moved during the last year); and submits all required reports to the Federal Elections Commission.

LEVEL	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR NAME	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR VALUES					
		YEAREND PERFORMANCE STANDARD FY 1998-1999	ACTUAL YEAREND PERFORMANCE FY 1998-1999	ACT 10 PERFORMANCE STANDARD FY 1999-2000	EXISTING PERFORMANCE STANDARD FY 1999-2000	AT CONTINUATION BUDGET LEVEL FY 2000-2001	AT RECOMMENDED BUDGET LEVEL FY 2000-2001
S	Percentage of list maintenance performed	Not applicable ¹	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
S	Average response time for servicing Elections and Registration Information Network (ERIN System) (in days) ²	Not applicable ³	3	Not applicable ³	3 ³	3	3

¹ This performance indicator did not appear under Act 10 of 1998 and did not have a performance standard for FY 1998-99.

² The Elections and Registration Information Network (ERIN System) has centralized all voter information and statistics to ensure the integrity of the state's voter rolls, protect against dual registration of individuals, cancel the registration of individuals who are deceased, and suspend the registration of individuals who are interdicted or convicted of a felony. The ERIN field network equipment includes the computer equipment in the offices of the parish registrars of voters and at the Baton Rouge offices.

³ This is a new performance indicator. It did not appear under Act 10 of 1998 or Act 19 of 1999 and has no performance standards for FY 1998-99 or FY 1999-00. The value shown for existing performance standard is an estimate not a standard.

Explanatory Note: The Data Processing Section compiles and stores statistical information that is available for use by all departments of government, as well as candidates for public office and all other persons interested in statistical research, political analysis, and voter trends. The data provided includes, but is not limited to, voter turnout statistics for each election. The number of requests for voter registration lists varies in relationship to the number of candidate elections that are scheduled to be held and the interest in those elections.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION: REQUESTS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION LISTS					
FY 1994-95 THROUGH FY 1998-99					
PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1994-95	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1995-96	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1996-97	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1997-98	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL FY 1998-99
Number of requests for voter registration lists	1,514	1,408	864	713	1,455

RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR THE PROGRAM

	ACTUAL 1998-1999	ACT 10 1999- 2000	EXISTING 1999- 2000	CONTINUATION 2000 - 2001	RECOMMENDED 2000 - 2001	RECOMMENDED OVER/(UNDER) EXISTING
MEANS OF FINANCING:						
STATE GENERAL FUND (Direct)	\$6,637,366	\$7,568,743	\$7,941,743	\$8,401,016	\$8,170,237	\$228,494
STATE GENERAL FUND BY:						
Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Self-gen. Revenues	0	640,000	640,000	340,000	340,000	(300,000)
Statutory Dedications	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interim Emergency Board	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	\$6,637,366	\$8,208,743	\$8,581,743	\$8,741,016	\$8,510,237	(\$71,506)
EXPENDITURES & REQUEST:						
Salaries	\$706,244	\$854,795	\$854,795	\$883,670	\$730,000	(\$124,795)
Other Compensation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Related Benefits	105,170	127,478	127,478	136,384	115,430	(12,048)
Total Operating Expenses	1,719,578	2,467,378	2,467,378	2,214,358	2,162,268	(305,110)
Professional Services	193,000	130,000	130,000	132,600	130,000	0
Total Other Charges	3,913,374	4,629,092	5,002,092	5,239,844	5,238,379	236,287
Total Acq. & Major Repairs	0	0	0	134,160	134,160	134,160
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND REQUEST	\$6,637,366	\$8,208,743	\$8,581,743	\$8,741,016	\$8,510,237	(\$71,506)
AUTHORIZED FULL-TIME						
EQUIVALENTS: Classified	13	12	12	12	13	1
Unclassified	1	2	2	2	1	(1)
TOTAL	14	14	14	14	14	0

SOURCE OF FUNDING

This program is funded with State General Fund and Fees and Self-generated Revenues. Fees and Self-generated Revenues are derived from the following: (1) candidate qualifying fees; (2) from the local governments annual canvass of voters; and (3) from commercial sales of voter registration lists and/or statistical information.

ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDATION

GENERAL FUND	TOTAL	T.O.	DESCRIPTION
\$7,568,743	\$8,208,743	14	ACT 10 FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000
			BA-7 TRANSACTIONS:
\$373,000	\$373,000	0	BA-7 based upon Act 972 of 1999 that provided for Salary increases for Registrars of Voters, Chief Deputy Registrar of Voters, and Confidential Assistants
\$7,941,743	\$8,581,743	14	EXISTING OPERATING BUDGET – December 3, 1999
\$54,650	\$54,650	0	Annualization of FY 1999-2000 Classified State Employees Merit Increase
\$331,340	\$331,340	0	Classified State Employees Merit Increases for FY 2000-2001
(\$141,069)	(\$141,069)	0	Salary Base Adjustment
(\$16,946)	(\$16,946)	0	Attrition Adjustment
(\$133,641)	(\$133,641)	0	Adjustments for 27th Payroll
\$134,160	\$134,160	0	Other Adjustments - Data Processing equipment for the new Human Resource System
\$0	(\$300,000)	0	Other Adjustments - Reduction of Fees and Self-generated Revenues to anticipated levels
\$8,170,237	\$8,510,237	14	TOTAL RECOMMENDED
\$0	\$0	0	LESS GOVERNOR'S SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS
\$8,170,237	\$8,510,237	14	BASE EXECUTIVE BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2000-2001
			SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINGENT ON SALES TAX RENEWAL:
\$0	\$0	0	None
\$0	\$0	0	TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINGENT ON SALES TAX RENEWAL
			SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINGENT ON NEW REVENUE:
\$0	\$0	0	None
\$0	\$0	0	TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINGENT ON NEW REVENUE
\$8,170,237	\$8,510,237	14	GRAND TOTAL RECOMMENDED

The total means of financing for this program is recommended at 100.8% of the existing operating budget. It represents 86.7% of the total request (\$9,817,362) for this program. The net increase in the State General Fund for this Program is primarily due to adjustments for equipment for the new Human Resource system and for required salary adjustments. The net decrease in the Total Means of Financing is due to the reduction of Fees and Self-generated Revenues to anticipated levels.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

\$130,000 Maintenance of the Statewide Voter Registration System and other associated systems

\$130,000 TOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

OTHER CHARGES

\$5,238,379 Funding for one-half the salaries, related benefits, and other expenses for the Registrars of Voters and their Assistants; Annual canvass of voters; costs for the Assistant Commissioner of Minority Affairs, and the printing of the voter identification cards

\$5,238,379 TOTAL OTHER CHARGES

ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS

\$134,160 Data Processing acquisitions for the new Human Resource System

\$134,160 TOTAL ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS